have been spent by Indian Airlines to put jet engine shop at Palam Airport which have now proved to be complete wastage; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether it is already in use, if so what is the total volume of business handed by this establishment; and

(c) what is the opinion of the engineering department of Indian Airlines about this jet engine shop?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) The Jet Engine Overhaul shop at Palam Airport has started functioning since May, 1991 for handling of engines fitted on B-737 aircraft. The heavy maintenance and overhaul work of these engines is scheduled to be taken up from January, 1992 and it is planned to handle 40 engines in the shop during 1992.

(b) During the last six months, the shop has turned out 15 engines involving rectification work.

(c) The shop will fulfil its objectives of maintaining, repairing and overhauling of jet engines as envisaged in the Project Report.

Development of tourist places in Madhya Pradesh

299. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 55 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th July, 1991 and state:

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh have sent any proposal to the Central Government for development of places of tourists interest in the State; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism have sanctioned projects related to construction of five tourist bungalows, one wayside amenity, two tourist lodges, floodlighting of monuments at Indore and purchase of water sports equipment and tents. The proposal for the construction of a tourist bungalow, a wayside amenity and a tourist lodge are under process.

Indo-Pak Agreement for banning Chemical Arms

300. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Pakistan have agreed to consider the proposal to ban chemical arms; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) During the fifth round of Foreign Secretary level talks, held at Islamabad on 30-31 October, 1991, both sides agreed to consider issuing a joint declaration on chemical weapons, and to convene a meeting of experts of the two sides on mutually convenient dates to exchange views on a bilateral agreement to ban the development, production, deployment and use of chemical weapons.

Demand for providing better security to Embassies and High Commissions

301. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many foreign embassies and High Commissions in the country have asked Government to provide better security for their diplomatic staff in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have taken measures to step up the security of the Foreign Missions. It is not appropriate to reveal the details due to security considerations.

Closure of Regional Passport Office Srinagar

302. SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Regional Passport Office, Srinagar which catered to the needs of the people of Jammu and Kashmir is not functioning for over one year; and

(b) if so, whether Government will restart the office at Srinagar or at Jammu to minimise hardships being faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Passport Office at Srinagar will be reopened as soon as conditions in the State of Jammu and Kashmir allow it.

Revaluation of I.T.D.C.'s Assets

303. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether revaluation of India Tourism Development Corporation assets has been completed by a consortium of 4 foreign banks; if so, which are these banks and what fees or renumeration, if any, has been paid to them for this job;

(b) whether its results are being "moulded" in the pattern with which the India Tourism Development Corporation plans to upgrade its hotels;

(c) whether this envisages privatising some hotels and mobilising resources through market borrowings;

(d) if so, which hotels of the India Tourism Development Corporation are proposed to be privatised fully or partially; and

(e) the amount likely to be raised through privatisation and market borrowings?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) The valuation of assets of 26 hotel properties of ITDC has been completed by the following 4 foreign banks:

1. Standard Chartered Bank.
2. Citibank N.A.
3. ANZ Grindlays Bank Plc.
4. The Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.

The remuneration payable to the 4 banks is Rs. 26 lakhs for 26 hotel properties. In addition board and lodging in ITDC hotels and air fare (economy class) has also been provided by ITDC to 4 people designated by the evaluating banks for each property.

(b) to (e) There is an urgent need for upgrading ITDC properties for which large investments are necessary. Since there is a constraint on resources, Government is considering the possibility of raising these resources from the market and by inviting equity participation. No final decision on the subject has yet been taken.